

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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R 101235Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2038

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FOR NEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : AFSP, BA

SUBJECT : CURRENT BUDGET SITUATION

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 076212

(B) STATE 022326

(C) MANAMA 0114

1. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND AND SYMPATHIZE WITH THE DIFFICULT FUNDING SITUATION DEPARTMENT FACING BUT MUST REITERATE THAT OUR FUNDING STATEMENT AS PRESENTED IN MANAMA REFTEL WAS IN FACT A HARD-NOSED ESTIMATE OF OUR MINIMUM NEED FOR FY 75 PROGRAM FUNDS. THROUGH PAINFUL REPROGRAMMING OF FUNDS, WE NOW ARE LIVING AT OUR PESENT OPERATIONAL LEVEL WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE REDUCED ALLOTMENT PROVIDED IN STATE 022326.

2. FEW, IF ANY, OF OUR EXPENDITURES AT THIS POINT CAN REASONABLY BE DESCRIBED AS DISCRETIONARY. THEY ARE IN THE CATEGORY OF BARE NECESSITY. THIS INCLUDES SOME \$8,350 FOR PURCHASE OF LONG-NEEDED OFFICE FURNISHINGS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT WHICH HAS BEEN DELAYED BY UNCERTAINTY RE FY-75 FUNDS AND PENDING URGENT DECISION ON MOVING TO ADEQUATE CHANCERY. WHILE WE WILL, OF COURSE, COMPLY WITH DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION TO CURATIL ALL PURCHASES IN THIS CATEGORY "UNTIL END OF FISCAL YEAR", HAVING SPENT VIRTUALLY NOTHING TO DATE ON OFFICE FURNITURE, WE MUST URGE RETENTION ALL THIS \$8,350 IN POST ALLOTMENT TO PERMIT ESSENTIAL END OF YEAR PURCHASES.

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3. AS TO OTHER EXPENDITURES NOTED STATE 76212:

(A) SUPPLIES. BEING ALREADY TIGHT ON FUNDS WE HAVE BEEN PURCHASING SUPPLIES ONLY AS SPECIFICALLY NEEDED AND HENCE HAVE NO STOCK TO FALL BACK ON IN ORDER TO PERMIT RELEASE OF FUNDS ALLOTTED FOR SUPPLY PURCHASES.

(B) TRAVEL. WE HAVE ONLY \$125 LEFT AND NEED MORE.

(C) LOCAL POSITIONS. ALL ALLOCATED ARE FILLED AND NO VACANCIES ANTICIPATED. ALTHOUGH WE ARE UNDER PRESSURE TO COMPLY WITH GENERAL 15 PER CENT LOCAL PAY RAISE, WE HAVE NOT BUDGETED FOR THIS AND, HENCE, HAVE NO FY 75 PAY RAISE TO DEFER.

(D) OVERTIME. WE ARE ALREADY OUT OF OVERTIME MONEY.

(E) OTHER ITEMS. THE POUCH AND OTHER SHIPMENTS OF U.S. PROPERTY HAVE BEEN REPROGRAMMED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM REGULAR AIR AND SHIPPING LINES TO FPO SYSTEM THOUGH TRANSMISSION TIME IS GREATER. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES ARE MINIMAL AND UNCUTTABLE. UTILITY EXPENDITURES ARE AT A MINIMUM. OUR STAFF HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN CAUTIONED AGAINST EXCESSIVE UTILITY USE REGARDLESS OF THE FACT THAT SUCH UTILITY FIXTURES AS EXIST IN MANAMA DO NOT LEND THEMSELVES TO WASTE. OUR UTILITIES WILL NOT ACCEPT HEAVY USE WITHOUT FREQUENT AND OFTEN DELAYED REPAIR.

4. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, WE ASK THE DEPARTMENT'S AGREEMENT THAT OUR CURRENT ALLOTMENT OF \$258,900 NOT TO BE CUT FURTHER.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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